

TABLE I  
Measurements of *Acrocephalus baeticatus guiersi* and *A. b. hopsoni* (o=unsexed; mean given in brackets).

	<i>A. b. guiersi</i>			<i>A. b. hopsoni</i>		
	No. of specimens	(20)	10 ♂♂, 10 ♀♀	No. of specimens	(6)	3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 2 o
Wing	♂♂	56-60	(57.9)	♂♂	56-59	(57.7)
	♀♀	55-59	(57)	♀	56	(56.25)
Tail	♂♂	47-52	(49.9)	♂♂	49-52	(50.3)
	♀♀	47-50	(48.2)	♀	47	(51)
Bill	♂♂	16-17	(16.7)	♂♂	16	(16)
	♀♀	16-18	(16.8)	♀	16.5	(16.25)
Tarsus	♂♂	21-23	(22.2)	♂♂	22-23	(22.3)
	♀♀	21-23	(21.9)	♀	22	(21.5)
Weight	♂♂	7-13	(8)	♂♂	6.3-8.6	(7.6)
	♀♀	7-10	(7.8)	♀	—	—
				o(ad)	—	—

Elzen & Wolters (1978). Their unique skin was forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution for appraisal, apparently without final result. East of Senegal, this species does not appear in the recent "Liste commentée des oiseaux du Mali" (Lamarche 1981) and the present authors do not know of any other record between southern Senegal and Nigeria and Chad. It is thus impossible for the moment to enlarge upon the actual isolation of this species in Senegal. Its absence from Mali is fully understandable; Lamarche never recorded it, though he listed 6 species of *Acrocephalus* and the extent of reed-beds between Senegal and Mali is all but unknown, although a complete blank area seems unlikely.

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## Two hummingbird species, one a new subspecies, new to Bolivia

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Recent field work in South America by Cardiff & Remsen (1981), Remsen & Ridgely (1980) and Parker *et al.* (1980) led to the discovery of 40 bird species additional to the avifauna of Bolivia. Several of these new records were not

surprising and fitted neatly into the general distributional pattern of the species. Further studies, like those recently carried out by Fitzpatrick & Willard (1982) and Hilty & Brown (1983), will undoubtedly reveal additional range expansions of Andean and Amazonian bird species, and this is in fact the case for at least one of 2 hummingbird species which the Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum A. Koenig (ZFMK) in Bonn, FRG, received from Charles Cordier, Cochabamba, Bolivia. Both trochilids, an adult ♀ Gould's Jewelfront *Polyplancta aurescens* and an adult ♂ Purple-backed Thornbill *Ramphomicron microrhynchum*, were formerly unknown to Bolivia, the latter revealing that the Purple-backed Thornbill from Bolivia must be considered a distinct subspecies.

#### *Polyplancta aurescens*

C. Cordier collected a ♀ (ZFMK # 8381) at Agrigento (elevation 400 m) close to Villa Tunari, Rio San Mathias, Bolivia, during the first week of February 1981. The ovaries were well developed, and presumably *P. aurescens* breeds in that particular tropical lowland forest section of Bolivia.

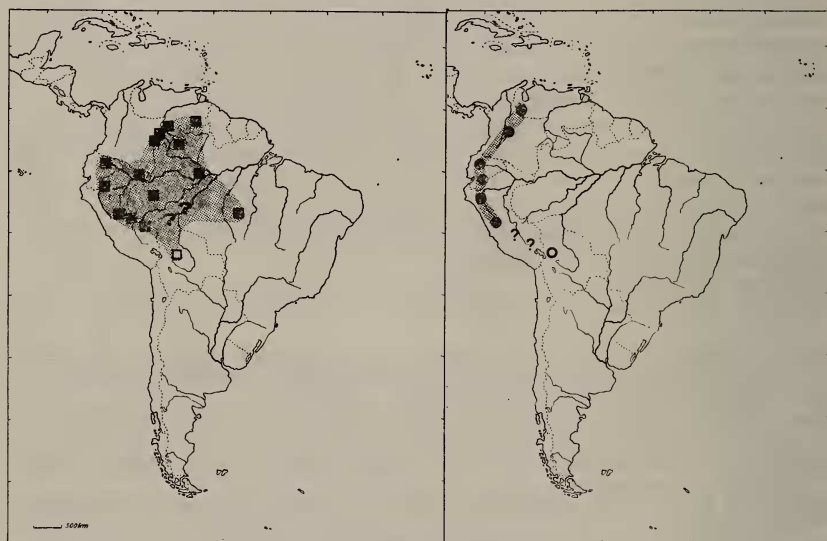


Fig. 1. Geographical distribution of Gould's Jewelfront *Polyplancta aurescens* in Amazonia. Closed symbols signify known records; open symbol signifies the recently documented record in Bolivia. The species is not known from the Rio Madeira. (Left)

Fig. 2. Geographical distribution of the Purple-backed Thornbill *Ramphomicron microrhynchum* in the Andes of South America. Closed symbols signifies documented records; open symbol signifies the type locality of the new subspecies *R. m. bolivianum*. (Right)

This hummingbird species is distributed throughout Amazonia (see Fig. 1), from the south of Venezuela (M. de Schauensee & Phelps 1978) southwards to Colombia (Fitzpatrick & Willard 1982), including the lowland forest of eastern Ecuador (Pearson 1977) and further west to Central Brazil (Sick 1960). Surprisingly *P. aurescens* has not been recorded from the Rio Madeira and its tributaries. The record from Bolivia is the southernmost locality documented for this monotypic species and may well represent its southern distribution limit.

**Ramphomicron microrhynchum bolivianum** subsp. nov.

*Type.* Adult ♂ (ZFMK # 81367) from Cocapata (elevation 3300 m), North of Cochabamba, Bolivia. Collected by Charles Cordier in July 1980.

*Diagnosis.* *R. m. bolivianum* differs most strikingly from all other subspecies of *R. microrhynchum* by the metallic "spectrum violet" (colour 72—Smithe 1975) of its upperparts. The underparts, especially the yellowish green gorget, are similar to that of *R. m. albiventris* from Peru, judged on the detailed description of the latter by Carriker (1935), since specimens of *R. m. albiventris* were unfortunately not at hand. The belly of *R. m. bolivianum* is darker green than in either *R. m. andicolum* or *R. m. microrhynchum*. The undertail coverts are greyish with blackish centres whereas they are white with purplish black in *R. m. albiventris* (Carriker 1935) and tawny ochraceous with coppery coloured centres in both *R. m. andicolum* and *R. m. microrhynchum*. The deeply forked tail of *R. m. bolivianum* is dark blue, whereas it is dark with a coppery sheen in all other subspecies.

*Measurements of the type.* Bill=7 mm. Wing (chord)=46 mm. Rectrice No. 1=25 mm, No. 5=40 mm. These mensural characteristics are within the range of all other races of *R. microrhynchum*.

*Distribution.* As indicated in Fig. 2, *R. microrhynchum* is distributed throughout the Andes from Venezuela (Merida—M. de Schauensee & Phelps 1978) south to Peru (Huacapistana, Dept. Junin—Carriker 1935), with this disjunct occurrence in Cocapata, Bolivia. This polytypic hummingbird species is rare everywhere within its geographical range and therefore might well have been overlooked by collectors and field researchers in the Andes of southern Peru. Whether *R. m. bolivianum*, therefore, constitutes an isolated population in Bolivia awaits further field work.

*Specimens examined.* *R. m. andicolum* (Simon 1921), 2 juv. ♂ (ZFMK # 9326, # 9327); 2 ad. ♂ (ZFMK # 9324, # 9325), Carpintero, Merida, Venezuela. *R. m. microrhynchum* (Boissoneau 1839), 1 ad. ♂ (ZFMK # 10308), "Colombia"; 1 ad. ♂ (ZFMK # 9308), Paramos de Bogota, Colombia; 2 ad. ♂ (ZFMK # 3381, # 9305), Bogota, Colombia; 2 ad. ♂ (ZFMK # 9306, # 9307), Las Palmas, near Bogota, Colombia; 2 ad. ♂ (ZFMK # 9309, # 9310), St. Domingo, Ecuador; 1 ad. ♂ (ZFMK # 9311), Paylon, Ecuador; 2 ad. ♂ (ZFMK # 9313, # 9314), Cutervo, Peru.

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